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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES FOR December 4, 2007 (Vol. XXXV, No. 32)

The 2006-2007 Faculty Senate minutes and other information are available on the Web at <http://www.eiu.edu/~FacSen> The Faculty Senate agenda is posted weekly on the Web, at Coleman Hall 2532, and on the third-level bulletin board in Booth Library. Note: These minutes are not a complete verbatim transcript of the Senate meeting.

I. Call to order by Lynne Curry at 2:00 p.m. (Booth Library Conference Room, Room 4440)

Present: A. Brownson, J. Coit, L. Curry, M. Dao, B. Joyce, B. Khan, R. Marshall, J. Melanson, R. Murray, J. Pommier, J. Russell, T. Sinclair, J. Snyder, J. Stimac and D. VanGunten. Guests: K. Born (Gerontology GA), B. Lord (Provost/VPAA), S. DiBenedetto (Reporter, *Daily Eastern News*) and J. Johnson (Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities).

II. Approval of Minutes of 27 November.

Approval of the Minutes of 27 November with no corrections – Yes: Coit, Curry, Joyce, Khan, Murray, Pommier, Russell, Sinclair, Snyder and VanGunten. Abstain: Brownson, Dao and Stimac.

III. Announcements

- A. December commencement is the 15th at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

IV. Communications

- A. Announcement and Call for Presentations, National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education.
- B. Memo from Dr. Perry, 26 November, re: approval of and provisions to “Graduate Assistant Instructional, Research, and Service Mission.”

V. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee: Senator Curry stated that the Executive Committee will be meeting with President Perry December 11th and that the committee will apprise the Senate of anything brought to the discussion at the Senate’s next meeting in January. Curry then passed out a tentative spring semester schedule to the Senate and asked for suggestions as to topics that need to be addressed next semester. Curry added that the Executive Committee will continue to explore changes to their proposal regarding representation from CAA and CGS, but that it is a long-term process that will carry on to next semester. She will compile an end of semester report and forward it to the Senate as well as other constituencies.
2. Nominations Committee: No report.
3. Elections Committee: Senator Brownson stated that it was Senator Khan’s last meeting and that Assege Haile Mariam will return from sabbatical next semester. Senator Curry then asked that the chairs of university committees contact Senator Brownson if they have open positions for next semester. There is an ongoing problem of chairs not being aware of who is serving on their committee and suggested that changes to the Faculty Senate website may prove helpful in solving this dilemma. Senator Pommier then suggested recognizing individuals that serve elected and appointed positions on committees with congratulatory letters. Senator Stimac responded that such a process can be accomplished by a simple mail merge between Microsoft and Excel.

4. Faculty – Student Relations Committee: Senator Curry asked Student Senator Melanson about the problem of student senators’ non-attendance. Melanson replied that he had already raised the matter with the student senators. He announced that the first Suicide Awareness event, a hot chocolate stand, took place yesterday. Nearly 147 pledges were gathered at the event.

5. Faculty – Staff Relations Committee: One of the main concerns remains parking.

6. Budget Transparency Committee: Senator Curry inquired as to the availability of Eastern Illinois University’s budget on-line. Provost Lord stated the budget is now available on-line as well as at the reference desk at Booth Library.

7. Faculty Forum Committee: The committee will meet in January to continue discussing the forum on the topic of Academic Integrity. They also plan to meet with the Faculty and Staff Senates. The forum is scheduled for March 4th in the Grand Ballroom.

8. Awards Committee: The committee received a letter that raised a concern about the criteria for the Mendez Award. The letter made reference to the length of time one has served as being a necessary criterion. It is the Senate’s responsibility to make any necessary changes to the criteria, but the senators agreed not to make changes at this time.

9. Other Reports

a) Provost’s Report: Provost Lord stated that finals are next week and commencement is 15 December. He said that the BOT meeting he attended was relatively uneventful, but that excellent presentations were given at the meeting by faculty members. Senator Pommier then asked about the status of the physical plant. Provost Lord replied that it is a difficult issue due to our current funding situation. He added that he is optimistic that there will be a capital bill soon. Provost Lord concluded by thanking the Senate for all their hard work over the semester. Senator Curry also expressed her appreciation for the Senate’s labors, including outgoing Senator Belayet Khan and outgoing Student Senator Jeff Melanson, as well as Provost Lord’s assistance throughout the semester.

V. New Business

A. No New Business.

VII. Adjournment at 2:40 p.m.

Future Agenda Items: campus climate survey; construction updates; long-range planning; faculty handbook

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Snyder, Recorder